is governed principally by the concerns of India's food security, maximising farm incomes and earning foreign exchange. Review of export performance of agricultural products is an on-going process and accordingly policy interventions are made, as and when considered necessary, with a view to making agricultural exports increasingly viable while keeping in view the domestic requirements.

Export Policy is being constantly updated and export regime in respect of agricultural products has been liberalised. Very few items are now either prohibited for exports or their exports restricted or are subject to quantitive ceiling. Major items for which the exports are banned include cow meat, beef, wheat, onions and sugar (except for sugar under preferential quota to EU/USA).

The agricultural products exported from India include tea, coffee, raw cotton, rice (basmati and non-basmati), coarse grains, tobacco, spices, cashew, scasame and niger seeds, oil meal extractions, sugar horticulture and flori culture products, fresh fruits and vegetables, processed fruits and juices.

Export of Onion

786. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry had cautioned the Ministry of Agriculture in August, 1998 to stop export of onions;

(b) if so, whether the advice was heeded by the Ministry of Agriculture; and

(c) if answer to part (b) be in the negative, whether this is the only reasons which caused crisis of onions in the domestic market?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) Ministry of Commerce had requested the Ministry of Agriculture to communicate to NAFED that export of onions may be restricted temporarily till the price situation eases. In order to restrict export of onion,""NAFED enhanced the minimum export price of onion. As a result of this, only 2539 tonnes of onions was exported in September, 1998, as compared to 40300 tonnes exported in September, 1997. Export of onion was banned on 12th October 1998.

Export Targets

787. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the target to be achieved for exports during the next five years;

(b) the details category-wise; and

(c) the steps Government are taking to achieve this target?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) The targets are fixed annually by the Ministry. An export target of 20% in dollar terms has been fixed for the year 1998-99.

(b) Based on the overall target of 20% in dollar terms fixed for 1998-v9 the details of provisional targets fixed for different commodity groups for the year 1998-99 are as follows:

Items	Value in US $ Million
1. Plantations	900
2. Agri. & Allied Products	3984
3. Marine Products	1400
4. Ores and Minerals	1252
5. Leather & Manufactures	1700
6. Gems and Jewellery	5800
7. Sports Goods	86
8. Chemicals & Allied Products	5128
9. Engineering Goods	4800
10. Electronics Hardware	962
11. Textiles including Handicrafts and Carpets	10370
12. Cotton Raw	250
13. Petroleum Products	550
14. Other Miscellaneous Exports	1100
15. Comnuter Software	2518
Total	40800